

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02642 141518Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2950

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02642

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA MFM

REF: A) STATE 231766; B) PORT OF SPAIN 02633

1. I HAD WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE MEETING THIS MORNING (SEPT. 14) WITH TREVOR SPENCER OF MINEXTAFF (REF B). HE ASSURED ME THE GOTT HIGHLY APPRECIATED THE BRIEFING I WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ON THE SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING OF THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL BASED ON INFORMATION IN REF (A), MAKING IT CLEAR THE MINISTRY IS GREATLY DISTURBED OVER NOT HAVING RECEIVED A REPORT AS YET ON SUCH AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT FROM ITS OWN OAS REP.

2. SPENCER CAREFULLY SOUGHT UNAMBIGUOUS ASSURANCE, WHICH I GAVE HIM, THAT COSTA RICA HAD DECLARED AT THAT MEETING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PORT O 02642 141518Z

THAT ITS TERRITORY HAD BEEN VIOLATED MILITARILY BY NICARAGUA. (ISSUE OF POSSIBLE INVOCATION OF RIO TREATY DID NOT ARISE.) ANOTHER OFFICER OF THE MINISTRY TOOK NOTES THROUGHOUT, READING BACK TO ME THE POINT ABOUT HOW THE ACT OF CONVOCAION UNDER CHARTER ARTICLE 59 AND A POSSIBLE FACT-FINDING MISSION COULD INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF RESTRAINT IN THE SITUATION.

3. SPENCER RESPONDED THAT, AS FAR AS THE MINEXTAFF IS CONCERNED, TWO SITUATIONS OBVIOUSLY NOW PREVAIL WITH REGARD TO NICARAGUA. THE FIRST IS PURELY INTERNAL, AND I HAD BEEN GIVEN THE GOTT'S POSITION ON THAT: NON-INTERFERENCE IN ANY WAY. THE SECOND RELATES TO THE THREAT OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN OR AMONG STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, THE MINISTRY RECOGNIZES THAT ALL STATES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE OAS AND UN HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ASSIST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE. HE ASSURED ME THAT, WHILE HE WOULD NOT WANT TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME IN ADVANCE, THE SECOND "NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION" WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOTT AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IMMEDIATELY. I POINTED OUT THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL IS LIKELY TO BE HELD TOMORROW (SEPT. 15). O'MAHONY

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